The majority of this course will take place inside jupyter notebooks. But there will be some examples throughout the code where you would have to run full standalone python scripts. In these situations, you would either use the command line to run these scripts or use an IDE. If you already have an IDE installed that you prefer, you can certainly use that for running and debugging python scripts. But if you want to follow along exactly with the course then we would recommend that you install the PyCharm IDE.

To do this simply navigate to the JetBrains website: jetbrains.com/pycharm and click the download link at the center of the page. This would take you to the download page and you can download PyCharm for Windows from here. We would use the free, open-source community edition. This would download the application installer to your system.

Once the installer has been downloaded, click on the executable .exe to start the installer. If you get any warning messages, go ahead and accept or run and then press yes for any admin pop-up. Now we have to go through the installer pressing next. We can adjust the location of the install if you prefer and then press next. It is useful to tic the box that states: **Add"bin" folder to the PATH**. Once that is complete, PyCharm is installed and you can launch it.

When PyCharm launches, make sure to read and accept the license. Then PyCharm starts to open. Then you will see the initial view with three buttons in the center. You will go had and select '**new project**'. This will present you with a screen where you can name your project and where it is saved. This is where you would select a python interpreter. Click on the little dots on the right side and under interpreter, select any interpreter regardless of what you used earlier to create the environment. Now we will click on the browse button and look for the folder that was created for the environment. In the prior video, we had created it inside the users folder inside the opencv\_for\_beginners folder. We had named the environment opencv-env and in the Scripts folder, we can then select the python.exe file. You don't need to do this every time you create a new project as now this environment will show up in the dropdown menu. And now we can create the project.

We will have the project with the default main file that was created for us. Down below we can open terminal that is connected to the python interpreter that was selected. In the script body, remove everything. We will test our main OpenCV library install.

    import cv2  
    print(cv2.\_\_version\_\_)

Save the file and press the run button. This would print the OpenCV version verify the install.